

REMARKS

This RCE application is filed in response to the final rejection dated September 16, 2003. The claim amendments are substantially in accordance with the proposed claim amendments discussed with the Examiner in the interview on January 12, 2004 and agreed to place the application in condition for allowance. The further changes in the claims relate to the use of the more specific phrase "internal distribution space" as discussed below.

In the final rejection, the claims were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Vassarotti in view of Abstract of Japan Patent No. 3197863 and Andreotti. In order to expedite the issuance of this patent, applicant has amended each of independent claims 1, 11, and 19 to emphasize the cooperation of the filter with the front divergent portion of the internal flow conduit as previously set forth in claim 19, lines 22 - 24 and claim 22, to provide an internal distribution space. Such a construction is not shown in Andreotti which is cited in the rejection in connection with the hollow plunger construction. Accordingly, each of the claims is patentably distinguished over the art.

For the Examiner's convenience, it is confirmed that the claims substantially correspond with those

proposed for discussion in the January 12, 2004 interview. As noted above, the internal distribution space is more specifically identified and distinguished from the sealed internal space remote of the filter. Accordingly, the following additional amendments have been made in the claims.

Claim 1 has been further amended at line 20 to confirm that the permeable filter bonded across the front divergent portion of the internal flow conduit forms an internal distribution space. This is the language specifically used in the amended paragraph beginning at line 22 at page 9 of the specification in connection with the internal space 35. Claim 11 has also been amended at lines 19 and 20 to refer to an internal distribution space. Lastly, claim 19 has also been further amended to identify in line 34 an internal distribution space.

The last line of claim 22 has been amended to avoid a redundancy of recitations since claim 1 already recites that the filter portion is integrally bonded to the front end of the tubular stem across the front divergent portion of the internal flow conduit.

As indicated, the further amendments merely clarify the claims without departing from the substance of the agreement for allowance.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is requested.

If there are any further fees required by this communication not covered by the enclosed check, or if no check is enclosed, please charge the same to Deposit Account No. 16-0820, Order No. 34156.

Respectfully submitted,

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